
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1625

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Pollet, Clibborn, Kagi, Pedersen, Hunt, Riccelli, Appleton, Hudgins, Moscoso, Fitzgibbon, Morrell, Sells, and Bergquist)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to consumer protection for tow truck services;
2 adding a new section to chapter 46.55 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the use of a
5 motor vehicle is often a necessity for residents' livelihood and
6 families. Therefore, the legislature finds it is important for the
7 public to know what the charges and fees will be for the private
8 impound of cars and other vehicles parked on private property, and that
9 those charges should be reasonable to ensure that residents may
10 retrieve impounded vehicles.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.55 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) For a private impound performed by any registered tow truck
14 operator using tow trucks classified by the Washington state patrol by
15 rule under RCW 46.55.050(1) as class A, class E, or class D only, the
16 following limitations apply:

17 (a) The maximum towing hourly rate listed on the fee schedule filed
18 with the department under RCW 46.55.063(1) may not exceed one hundred

1 thirty-five percent of the maximum hourly rate for a class A tow truck
2 at the time of filing as negotiated by the Washington state patrol,
3 pursuant to rule, and contained in the letter of contractual agreement
4 and letter of appointment authorizing a registered tow truck operator
5 to respond to state patrol-originated calls.

6 (b) The maximum daily storage rate listed on the fee schedule filed
7 with the department under RCW 46.55.063(1) may not exceed one hundred
8 thirty-five percent of the maximum daily storage rate for an impound at
9 the time of filing as negotiated by the Washington state patrol,
10 pursuant to rule, and contained in the letter of contractual agreement
11 and letter of appointment authorizing a registered tow truck operator
12 to respond to state patrol-originated calls.

13 (c) The maximum after hours release fee listed on the fee schedule
14 filed with the department under RCW 46.55.063(1) may not exceed one
15 hundred percent of the maximum after hours release fee for an impound
16 at the time of filing as negotiated by the Washington state patrol,
17 pursuant to rule, and contained in the letter of contractual agreement
18 and letter of appointment authorizing a registered tow truck operator
19 to respond to state patrol-originated calls.

20 (2) The limitations set forth in subsection (1) of this section
21 apply to all registered tow truck operators whether or not they hold,
22 have applied for, or received letters of appointment from the
23 Washington state patrol to respond to state patrol-originated calls.

24 (3) The limitations set forth in subsection (1) of this section do
25 not apply to:

26 (a) Any other classes of tow trucks classified by the Washington
27 state patrol by rule under RCW 46.55.050(1); or

28 (b) Law enforcement impounds or private voluntary towing.

29 (4) The limitations set forth in subsection (1) of this section
30 only apply if the vehicle is parked and upright, has all its wheels and
31 tires attached, does not have a broken axle, and has not been involved
32 in an accident at the location from which it is being impounded.

33 (5) This section does not affect the authority of any city, town,
34 or county to enforce, maintain, or amend any ordinance, enacted prior
35 to January 1, 2013, and valid under state law in existence at the time
36 of its enactment, that regulates maximum allowable rates and related

1 charges for private impounds by registered tow truck operators.

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